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Epping Rural District Council

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

including the Report of the

Chief Sanitary Inspector

For the year ending December 31st, 1947.

Epping Rural District Council



To the Chairman and Members of the
Epping Rural District Council.

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1947, on the health and sanitary circumstances of the district.

It was on 15th April, 1947, that I took office as Medical Officer of Health of the district in succession to Dr. Roy Evans, to whom I am grateful for the medical statistical data in respect of the period covered by the report prior to that date.

The matter of greatest concern during the year was the occurrence of the most serious epidemic of Infantile Paralysis which has ever taken place in the country. Between May and December 8,157 cases were notified in the British Isles. Owing to the tragic nature of this disease, striking down suddenly and indiscriminately both children and adults in the prime of life and vigour, a great deal of public anxiety was prevalent. Many were the consultations held over slightly ill children at this time, as the danger was ever in the public eye; and no-one can say how many of them may have actually been infected with a very mild form of the disease which mercifully failed to develop into the dreaded paralysis. All possible steps were taken to limit the spread of infection and to allay the general anxiety, and it is satisfying to note that in this district only one confirmed case of Infantile Paralysis occurred during the year.

The health and nutrition of the population has remained good. The birthrate has again risen (from 17.9 to 19.3 per 1,000 of the population), and only 3.4% of the births were illegitimate as compared with 4.3% in 1946 and 6.8% in 1945—a sure sign of the gradual return to more normal social and housing conditions. The Death rate of infants under a year old was slightly less than last year, and about half the rate for the country as a whole. No mothers in the district died during or as a result of childbirth

during the year, and there were no deaths from infantile paralysis, syphilis or diabetes. Scarlet fever, whooping cough and tuberculosis notifications were considerably less than in the previous year, measles only slightly so.

For the second year in succession, there were no cases of diphtheria. The immunisation programme has been continued, and a new system introduced whereby every mother receives a letter by post from the Medical Officer of Health as her child approaches the age of one year, explaining the advantages of immunisation and stating the time and nearest place at which free inoculations can be obtained. 112 children completed a course of immunisation during the year. The percentage of children between the ages of 1 and 15 in the district so protected (as at the 31st December, 1947) was 64.8%.

The overall death rate for the district shows a slight increase to 12.3 per 1,000 population (from 11.4 in 1946). The increase is mainly in diseases of the circulatory system and pneumonia.

In the statistical tables which follow, births and deaths have been corrected for "inward" and "outward" transfers—i.e., they refer only to persons who normally reside in the district, and they include all births and deaths among them wherever occurring. Infectious diseases, however, are allocated to the district in which they arise, irrespective of place of normal residence of the patient.

It would be inappropriate to conclude this report without making some reference to the National Health Service Act, 1946, which, at the time of writing, appears certain to come into operation on the 5th July, 1948. From that day on it will, in the terms of the Act, be the duty of the Minister of Health "to promote the establishment in England and Wales of a comprehensive health service designed to secure improvement in the physical and mental health of the people of England and Wales and the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of illness."

The Scheme will be administered in three parts, as follows :—

- (1) General practitioner, dental and pharmaceutical services administered by an Executive Council for each County Council and County Borough area.
- (2) Hospital and Specialist services administered on behalf of the Minister by Regional Hospital Boards and Boards of Governors of the teaching hospitals.

- (3) Local and Home Services, comprising the provision of Health Centres, midwifery services, ante-natal clinics for expectant mothers, post-natal clinics for mothers and babies, provision of fruit juices and cod liver oil, dental service for expectant and nursing mothers and young children, health visiting and home nursing, ambulances, the provision of domestic help on health grounds, special and after care of the sick, and local mental health services. These will be the responsibility of the Major Local Authorities—County Councils and County Borough Councils—which will be known as “Local Health Authorities.”

Towards the end of the year under review, negotiations began between the Essex County Council and the County District Councils in Essex with the object of working out the scheme whereby the Essex County Council, as Local Health Authority, would administer the services, as listed under (3) of the foregoing paragraph, for which they will be responsible. At the time of writing (June, 1948) the scheme has been almost completed and approved, with amendments, by the Minister of Health. With the exception of the Mental Health Service and the Ambulance Service (which will be administered centrally by the County Council) the services in question will be administered in this area by a “Forest Area Health Sub-Committee,” responsible to the County Health Committee and composed as follows :—

Representing

Wanstead and Woodford Borough	...	4
Chingford Borough	... ..	3
Chigwell U.D.C.	... ..	3
Epping U.D.C.	... ..	2
Waltham Holy Cross U.D.C.	... ..	2
Epping R.D.C.	... ..	2
Essex County Health Committee	...	7
*Hospital Management Committee	...	1
*Executive Council for Essex	... ..	1
*Local Medical Committee for Essex	...	1
*Voluntary Organisations	... ..	4
Total :		30

* Nominees to be appointed by the Essex County Health Committee.

It is satisfactory to note that urban and rural districts will be well represented on this committee, considering that it will be administering many services which were previously controlled remotely by the County Council from Chelmsford. The decentralisation of control augurs well for the future, and local needs and problems will be all the more readily brought to the notice of the administering body. Many of your Councillors and Officers have felt that this decentralisation of control does not go far enough, and that the areas of the sub-committees could with advantage have been made smaller and more compact. The difficulties in the way of the County Council in staffing and maintaining numerous small units of administration would, however, be many, not the least of them being that of providing office accommodation, officers and clerical staff for each. The present arrangement has the advantage of making the territory of the Education Division and the Health Area the same, and thus facilitating the co-ordination of the School Medical Service with the other Local Authority Health Services. The scheme also provides for periodic review of the areas in the light of experience, and time alone will tell to what extent revisions may prove to be necessary.

In concluding my report, I would like to record my appreciation to the Staff of the Public Health Department for their help and co-operation, and the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their support during the year.

H. FRANKS, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Epping Rural District Council

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1947

Chairman : Councillor C. H. Bradshaw.

Members :

Councillor A. Barratt	Councillor Mrs. H. E. Howard
„ Mrs. K. M. E. Bell	„ H. B. Kemsley
„ F. Blatch	„ W. M. B. Newcombe
„ E. V. Boram	„ Mrs. E. A. Newton
„ B. Copeland	„ J. Padfield
„ K. de Maus	„ R. J. Padfield
„ Rev. Canon Fisher	„ J. W. Stevens
„ J. M. D. Gray	„ Mrs. J. R. Swire
„ T. L. Hickling	„ G. Tucker

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :

Dr. R. EVANS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (to 14th April, 1947)

Dr. H. FRANKS, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H. (from 15th April, 1947)

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

Mr. H. J. HEELEY, Sanitary Inspector's Examination Board.
Royal Sanitary Institute (Meat and other
Foods) Certificate.
Practical Sanitary Science, London.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

Mr. T. E. DAVIES, Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary
Inspector's Examination Joint Board).
(From March, 1946).

Inspector for Survey of Rural Housing :

Mr. T. C. OATES, Municipal and County Building Inspectors
Certificate.

Clerks :

Miss A. E. A. ROTHWELL.

Miss P. FARMER.

Section A

STATISTICS and SOCIAL CONDITIONS of the AREA

Area (in acres)	34,856
Population	16,700
Number of inhabited houses	5,206
Rateable value	£100,313
Sum represented by a penny rate	£388

The rate in the pound of the general rate was 20s.

VITAL STATISTICS

	Male.	Female.	Total
Live Births : Legitimate	163	148	311
Illegitimate	3	8	11
			—
		TOTAL :	322
			—

Birth rate per 1,000 of the population 19.3

	Male.	Female.	Total
Still Births : Legitimate	7	4	11
Illegitimate	1	0	1
			—
		TOTAL :	12
			—

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births 35.9

	Male.	Female.	Total
Deaths	108	97	205
			(Registrar General's figures)

Death rate per 1,000 population 12.3

Deaths of Infants under 1 year :

	Male.	Female.	Total
Legitimate	3	3	6
Illegitimate	0	0	0
			—

TOTAL : 6

Date rate of infants under 1 year (per 1,000 live births) 18.6

Maternal Deaths :

Puerperal and Post-abortion sepsis	0
Other maternal causes	0
	—

TOTAL : 0

Maternal death rate (per 1,000 total births) Nil

Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under age 2 years Nil

Deaths of premature infants Nil

CAUSES OF DEATH AS GIVEN BY THE REGISTRAR

GENERAL FOR THE YEAR 1947

	Male.	Female.	Total
Influenza	0	1	1
Whooping Cough	0	1	1
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory system	2	2	4
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	1	1	2
Cancer (all forms)	17	14	31
Intracranial vascular lesions ...	8	14	22
Heart Disease	36	29	65
Other Disease of Circulatory system	6	11	17
Bronchitis	6	2	8
Pneumonia	6	6	12
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	0	0	0
Appendicitis	1	0	1
Other Digestive Diseases ...	3	4	7
Nephritis	3	4	7
Congenital malformations			
Birth injuries	2	2	4
Infantile Diseases			
Road Traffic Accidents	4	0	4
Suicide	1	0	1
Other violent causes	2	2	4
All other causes	10	4	14
	—	—	—
TOTAL :	108	97	205
	—	—	—

Table of Comparative Birth Rates and Death Rates in the year 1947 (Provisional figures based on weekly and quarterly returns).
Rates per 1,000 population.

	England and Wales	126 County Bor- oughs and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 census)	London Adm. County	Epping R.D.C.
Live Births ...	20.5	23.3	22.2	22.7	19.3
Still Births ...	0.50	0.62	0.54	0.49	0.72
Deaths: All causes	12.0	13.0	11.9	12.8	12.3

(Trends of Birth and Death Rates over the past 5 years.

	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.
Birth rate per 1,000 population ...	11.5	17.2	16.9	17.9	19.3
Still births per 1,000 total births	31.5	31.0	18.8	39.4	35.9
Death rate per 1,000 population ...	10.2	11.7	14.5	11.4	12.3
Illegitimate birth rate % of total births	...	...	...	...	...
	7.7	6.2	6.8	4.3	3.4

Section B

GENERAL PROVISION OF THE HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT

- (a) **Public Health Officers** of the Local Authority (see page 5).
- (b) **Laboratory Facilities.** A Ministry of Health Laboratory operated at St. Margaret's Hospital, Epping. Milk, water and ice cream samples are examined at the Counties Public Health Laboratory, 66, Queen Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.
- (c) **Hospitals.** St. Margaret's Hospital, Epping.
Waltham Joint Isolation Hospital (for infectious cases only).
Epping Cottage Hospital.
- (d) **Child Welfare.** The Welfare Authority is the Essex County Council. Clinics are held at the following times and places :—
 - (1) **EPPING :** The Combined Treatment Centre, Regent Road, Epping.

Dressing Clinic every school morning, 9—9.30 a.m.

Every Monday morning and afternoon :

Dental and orthopaedic clinics (by appointment only).
Appointments arranged at School Clinic or from School Medical Inspections.

Every Tuesday morning. Tuberculosis Dispensary only.

(N.B. Many children who have to be seen at the dispensary are not tuberculosis. May be only being checked up).

Tuesday afternoons. Dental Clinic (by appointment only).
Speech Therapy Clinic (by appointment only).

Wednesday mornings. Dental Clinic (by appointment only).
Twice a month Gas Clinic (by appointment only).

Wednesday afternoons. 1.30 p.m., 1st and 3rd Wednesdays.
Eye Clinic (by appointment only).

Dental Clinic (by appointment only).

Ante-natal Clinic, 2 p.m., 4th Wednesday.

Thursday mornings. School Clinic, 9.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.
 *Diphtheria Immunisation at 11.30 a.m.
 Orthopaedic Clinic (by appointment only).
 Dental Clinic (by appointment only).

Thursday afternoons. Dental Clinic (by appointment only).
 Child Welfare Clinic (babies).

Friday mornings. Dental Clinic (by appointment only).
 Orthopaedic Clinic (by appointment only).

Friday afternoons. 2—3 p.m. Dental Inspection. **No** appointment necessary. Any child with or without parent can be seen by dentist on this day.

Women's Welfare Clinic. 2 p.m. 2nd Friday.

Orthopaedic Clinic (by appointment only).

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|---|
| (2) HARLOW: | The Women's Institute Club Room | *2nd Friday in the month, 2.30 p.m. |
| (3) HARLOW
COMMON: | Kings Head, Potter Street | *1st Monday in the month, 2.30 p.m. |
| (4) MATCHING
TYE: | The Women's Institute | *3rd Friday in the month, 2.0 p.m. |
| (5) SHEERING: | The Parish Room | *1st Friday in the month, 2.0 p.m. |
| (6) THEYDON
BOIS: | The Sorrell Rooms | *1st & 3rd Fridays in the month, 2.0 p.m. |
| (7) NETTESWELL: | The Women's Institute Hall | *4th Thursday in the month, 2.30 p.m. |
| (8) MAGDALEN
LAVER
(weighing
centre): | Village Hall | 2nd Tuesday in the month, 2 p.m. |
| (9) NORTH
WEALD: | The Queens Rooms, North Weald | 2nd Wednesday in month, 2.30 p.m. |
| (10) PARNDON: | The Parish Rooms, Gt. Parndon | *4th Tuesday in the month, 2.30 p.m. |
| (11) ROYDON | The Community Centre | *2nd Thursday in the month, 2.30 p.m. |
| (12) NAZEING: | Cadet Hut, St. Leonard's Road | *1st & 3rd Tuesdays in the month, 2 p.m. |

* Diphtheria Immunisation is available free of charge at the

above clinics, and also, under the Rural District Council's Scheme, at any Doctor's surgery.

Home visiting is carried out by the County Council's Health Visitors in the area.

(e) **School Health Service.** The Education Authority is the Essex County Council. School nurses inspect the children regularly, and there is a medical inspection at each school not less than once a year.

(f) **Tuberculosis Service.** Tuberculosis Dispensary of the Essex County Council at the Combined Treatment Centre, Regent Road, Epping—every Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

During the year the Care Association covering the Chigwell, Epping, Waltham Abbey and Ongar districts continued to do useful work. The Association assists cases awaiting admission to sanatorium in various ways and arranges for the admission of child contacts to convalescent homes. It concerns itself also with the after care of patients by assistance in obtaining materials for occupational therapy and whenever possible, suitable employment for those fit for work. The Association is supported by voluntary contributions and receives also a grant from the County Council.

The Honorary Secretary is Mr. A. J. Edwards, 37, Woodland Road, Loughton.

(g) District Nurses employed by the Epping District Nursing Association, and Midwives employed by the Essex County Council, serve the area.

Sections C, D and E

THE REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

The Chairman and Members of the
Epping Rural Council.

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Report for the year 1947. This is an abridged report at the directions of the Ministry of Health, but I have included in it matters of outstanding general interest with regard to Housing, Water Supplies, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal, the Supervision of Food Supplies, and Factories.

I would respectfully offer my thanks to the Members of the Council for their help and consideration, also my thanks to the Staff of my Department for their ready co-operation during a somewhat difficult year.

I am, Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. J. HEELEY, M.S.I.A.,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING.

This report does not include a number of the tables referred therein which have been placed before the Council.

“Report of Chief Sanitary Inspector and Re-Housing Officer.

Analysis of Occupation of Existing Council Houses, and Analysis of Applications for Housing Accommodation.

In accordance with your instructions I beg to report on the occupation of existing Council Houses and to set out analyses of applicants for houses to be erected by the Council.

By so doing it is suggested that better occupational use of existing houses will be brought about and houses to be erected will be of a size to accommodate the various families of the applicants, without detriment to the Council's obligation to provide accommodation and meeting the housing needs of the applicants.

Furthermore, by erecting a comparative large number of two-room flatlets to accommodate persons now living in Council Houses, the families of whom are not putting the house into full occupation, or applicants with small families who could well be accommodated in flatlets without reducing the standard of housing.

By so doing it would :

1. Save labour and material.
2. Reduce the cost of housing a family unit.
3. Reduce the Rent.
4. Make more labour, material and money available for other work.

This report does not refer to houses erected and occupied since the end of the war, and the applicants who have been given houses are not included in the analyses of applicants.

Comparative Tables.

In order that the Council may appreciate the occupation of houses generally in the District relative to the number of occupied Council Houses the following Table will no doubt be of use.

Table 1.

No. of inhabited houses according to Rate Books				
(end of March, 1947) ... ..	...	...	...	5,012
Resident Population Mid 1946 (estimated) ...				16,280

No. of Council Houses (excluding new Council Houses)	609
No. of occupants (average 4 persons per house)	2,436
Percentage of Council Houses	12
Percentage of Population accommodated in Council Houses	14.9

Occupied Council Houses.

The details of occupation of the 609 Council Houses are summarised and set out in Tables 2 and 2a which are attached to this Report. Likewise particulars relating to houses in the various Parishes are summarised and set out in Table 3.

It will be observed that in sixteen cases, only one person is occupying a three-bedroom house and in seventy-six cases only two persons, probably man and wife, are occupying three-bedroom houses, and in 89 cases a three-bedroom house is occupied by only three adults. In one case a four-bedroom house is occupied by only two persons. In each of these cases it would appear that there are spare bedrooms.

Such families, in my view, should be offered a two-bedroom flatlet and the premises they now occupy given to the larger families now included in the waiting list for housing accommodation and thus relieve the dire necessity of many families.

Many of the four-bedroom houses are not occupied by the larger families, these are mostly accommodated in three-bedroom houses.

Applications for Housing Accommodation.

The number of applications for housing accommodation on the 11th November, 1947, was 800. This does not include those applications in respect of which houses have been given and are occupied. A summary of all the applications is set out in Table 4 and an analysis of the applications in each Parish in Table 5.

It will be seen that of these applications no less than 247 are applications from families consisting of only two persons and 192 from applicants whose families consist of two adults and one child. These 439 families can well be housed, for some years, in cottage flatlets with two bedrooms, and thus make an all-round saving.

I would point out, however, that the category of two in family differs somewhat in those applying for accommodation to those who occupy existing Council Houses. Generally, those applying for houses are young people and increases in

family can be expected but those in Council Houses are of an age group where no increase is expected. With regard to the first group, a baby under 4 years does not normally occupy a room on its own and separation of the sexes does not usually take place until children become 8 or 9 years of age. Therefore, a man and wife newly married and taking up residence in a two-bedroom flatlet could remain for some years before a third bedroom is necessary.

Housing for Agricultural Workers.

The local War Agricultural Executive Committee has asked the Council for houses to accommodate 373 families. I feel, however, that some of these applicants are already included in the number for whom the Council is making provision.

Due consideration should be given to this question. The applications to the War Agricultural Executive Committee should be checked with the applications in the files of my Department in order to ascertain that there is no overlapping. Full details of every applicant should be given in order that these may be placed in the right categories and thus enable the Council to determine the type and number of houses it is necessary to build to meet the requirements of agriculture in the most economical way.

Table 6.

This Table sets out the applications for each Parish showing the families composed of two persons; those with a child under 4 and under 10 years of age, and those where there are children whose ages are under 4 and under 10. It also sets out the number of applications received from Agricultural workers and from Nursery workers. The table also reveals the number of applications for Bungalows in each Parish.

With regard to the size of the family, it could be determined as to the number of bedrooms required and when the family grows-up additional bedrooms will become necessary. That time can roughly be anticipated from the ages shown in the various age groups."

HOUSING SURVEY.

In accordance with the recommendations of the Rural Housing Sub-Committee of the Central Housing Advisory Committee a Survey of dwelling houses with a rateable value of not more than £22 10s. 0d. is being made. The Survey is a full one dealing with

every detail of building construction of the dwellings and living conditions of the families. It will be necessary to survey 2,935 properties of which 2,074 had been completed at the end of December, 1947. As a result of the Survey many housing defects have been found and most of these remedied by the owners after, in most cases, informal notices being served.

The owners have with few exceptions met their obligations regarding housing repairs very well indeed having in mind the difficulties of labour and materials. It will be helpful when the findings of the Committee reviewing the Rent Restriction Act are made so that, possibly, owners may be properly compensated for maintenance and repair work carried out, having regard to the prevailing charges for the execution of the work which have increased considerably since the Act became law. By so doing the requirements under the Public Health Act and the Housing Acts of the Local Authorities would be met more fairly and expeditiously as it would appear that there is little margin of profit at the present time to cover the costs of repairs to the cheaper rented cottages.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND SHACK DEVELOPMENT.

My Council is seriously concerned with Moveable Dwellings and Shack Development taking place in the Area especially in the Glen Faba, Riverfields, The Moors and Lodge Farm Estates, Roydon, and has taken steps to control this type of development as far as possible under the provisions of the Public Health Act and the Town and Country Planning Acts.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The Water Undertakers for the whole district are the Herts and Essex Waterworks Company, Limited, the water being derived from wells, one at Sawbridgeworth and one at Roydon, both approximately 200 feet deep.

The quality of the water is satisfactory both from a chemical and bacteriological point of view. Four samples of water taken before chlorination were submitted for chemical examination, and 12 for bacteriological examination, these being taken after chlorination.

The Analyst's reports of a selection of the samples are set out herewith:—

Before Treatment—Chemical and Bacteriological Examination.

Date: 25.3.47. Taken from: Aerating Fountain, Sawbridgeworth Pumping Station.

CHEMICAL RESULTS EXPRESSED IN PARTS PER MILLION.

Appearance: Faint opalescence with flocculent deposit of mineral debris including iron oxide and traces of leptothrix and gallionella.

Colour (Hazen): Nil	Turbidity (Silica Scale):	
Reaction, pH: Neutral: 7.1	Less than	5
Electric conductivity at 20°C: 600	Odour: Nil	
	Free Carbon Dioxide:	36
	Alkalinity as Ca CO ₃	315

Ca.	Mg.	Na.	CO ₃ .	SO ₄ .	Cl.	NO ₃ .	SiO ₂	
104	24		189	64	26	—	20	Probable Combinations
104			156					Calcium Carbonate 260
	13		33					Magnesium Carbonate 46
	11			43				Magnesium Sulphate 54
		10		21				Sodium Sulphate 31
		17			26			Sodium Chloride 43
						20		Silica 20
								Difference 6
Total solid constituents dried at 180°C.								460

Hardness—Total 360. Carbonate (Temporary) 315.
Non-carbonate (Permanent) 45.

Nitrogen in Nitrates	0.0	Nitrogen in Nitrites	Absent
Free Ammonia	0.45	Free Chlorine	Absent
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.000	Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C	0.05
Metals: Iron	0.20	Other metals absent	

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS.

Number of Colonies developing on Agar per cc. or ml. in	1 day at 37°C	2 days at 37°C	3 days at 20°C
	0	0	0
Presumptive Coliform Reaction	Present in —	Absent from 100 ml.	
Bact. Coli. ...	Present in —	Absent from 100 ml.	
Cl. Welchii Reaction ...	Present in —	Absent from 100 ml.	

(Signed) GORDON MILES.

Before Treatment—Chemical and Bacteriological Examination.

Date: 24.6.47. Taken from Aerating Fountain, Roydon
Pumping Station.

CHEMICAL RESULTS EXPRESSED IN
PARTS PER MILLION.

Appearance: Slight opalescence with few particles of mineral
debris consisting of iron oxide.

Colour (Hazen)	Slight	Turbidity (Silica scale)	5
	yellow brown	Odour	nil
Filtered:	nil	Free carbon dioxide	35
Reaction pH	Neutral	Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	305
Electric conductivity at 20°C	640		

Ca.	Mg.	Na.	CO ₃ .	SO ₄ .	Cl.	NO ₃ .	SiO ₂	
97	23		183	47	25	A	22	Probable Combinations
97			146					Calcium Carbonate 243
	15		37					Magnesium Carbonate 52
	8			32				Magnesium Sulphate 40
		7		15				Sodium Sulphate 22
		16			25			Sodium Chloride 41
							22	Silica 22
								Difference 10
Total solid constituents dried at 180°C.								430

Hardness—Total 340. Carbonate (Temporary) 305.

Non-carbonate (Permanent) 35.

Nitrogen in Nitrates	0.0	Nitrogen in Nitrites	Less than 0.01
Free Ammonia	0.32	Free Chlorine	Absent
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.000	Oxygen absorbed in	
Metals	Iron: 0.92	4 hours at 27°C	0.50
		Other metals absent	

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS.

Number of Colonies developing on Agar per cc. or ml. in	1 day at 37°C	2 days at 37°C	3 days at 20°C
	0	0	0

Presumptive Coliform Reaction	Present in —	Absent from 100 ml.
Bact. Coli 	Present in —	Absent from 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction ...	Present in —	Absent from 100 ml.

(Signed) ROY C. HOATHER.

After Treatment—Bacteriological Examination.

Date: 23.12.47. Time: 3.45 p.m.

Taken from: Standpipe in Yard, Hare Street Farm,
Great Parndon.

Number of Colonies developing on Agar per cc. or ml. in	1 day at 37°C	2 days at 37°C	3 days at 20°C
	0	6	0

Presumptive Coliform Reaction	Present in —	Absent from 100 ml.
Bact. Coli 	Present in —	Absent from 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction ...	Present in —	Absent from 100 ml.

This is a very satisfactory sample. It is clear and bright in appearance and conforms to the highest standard of bacterial purity, indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

(Signed) GORDON MILES.

The water is extremely hard and the Company has undertaken to reduce this to 12½ degrees according to Clark's Scale, as set out in the Herts and Essex Water Act, 1944.

The quantity supplied is generally sufficient except in parts of the Parishes of Nazeing and Roydon. This deficiency appears to be due to the size of the water mains and although the Company laid a 4in. water main along Reeves Lane, Roydon, in 1946 to improve the supply it has not brought about the desired result.

It is the Company's intention to lay another 6in. main from Tylers Cress, Roydon, to Hoe Lane, Nazeing, for the same purpose and it is hoped that the work will commence without delay.

The shortages to which reference is made is accentuated during the summer months by the large amount of water taken by nursery-men—growers of tomatoes and cucumbers.

The water is not liable to plumbo-solvent action and as it has a high standard of purity no action has been taken in respect of any form of contamination. Chlorination, however, is carried out by the Company as a precautionary measure.

Of the dwelling houses 92.997 derive their water direct from the mains in the house, 4.897 by means of standpipe and the remainder from well supplies. Particulars relative to this supply in the various Parishes are as follows :—

Parish	Total No. of houses	Main Supply	Standpipe
Epping Upland ...	202	177	25
Great Parndon ...	188	160	18
Harlow	1197	1159	38
Latton	60	43	5
Magdalen Laver ...	68	57	11
Matching	165	110	21
Nazeing	676	644	12
Netteswell	239	213	26
North Weald ...	566	558	8
Roydon	589	500	59
Sheering	310	293	15
Theydon Bois ...	775	775	0
Theydon Garnon ...	70	58	12
	<hr/> 5105 <hr/>	<hr/> 4747 <hr/>	<hr/> 250 <hr/>

Schemes for extending the water mains in the following Parishes are still before the Ministry:—

From Matching Tye to Newman's End, Matching.

From Cock Green, Great Parndon, to the School, Great Parndon.

From Dobbs Weir, Roydon, to Carthegena Lock, Nazeing.

Water Main extensions have been carried out during the year, all in connection with new housing schemes, as follows:—

Manor Road, Harlow	814 yards	3 in.
Old House Croft, Netteswell	276 yards	3 in.
St. Leonards Road, Nazeing	922 yards	3 in.
Temple Farm, Roydon	353 yards	3 in.

Owing to the pump supply giving out at Newman's End, Matching, arrangements were made with the National Fire Service to cart water three times a week to this District over a fairly long period.

Water was carted throughout the year to the inhabitants in the area from Dobbs Weir, Roydon, to Carthagen Estate, Nazeing, twice a week.

At the time of writing this report notification has been received from the Ministry of Health that all the proposed Water Main Extension Schemes have been approved in principle but it is necessary to submit revised estimates as those already submitted are deemed to be too high.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The Harlow Sewage Disposal Works were reconstructed during the year.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

Constant supervision of all food supplies is carried out by the Department and in consequence together with co-operation generally found among the traders, it is believed a high standard of purity is maintained.

It is necessary, however, for all persons engaged in the manufacture, preparation and distribution of food to realise their responsibilities to the public and that personal hygiene must be constantly practised to a high degree to prevent contamination of food and thereby avoiding food poisoning epidemics.

As an illustration of this the following case dealt with during the year may be quoted:—

“On a complaint of cases of diarrhoea occurring in a family it was found that fish cakes had been consumed by members of the family. Fortunately, three of these cakes were found in the house and were submitted to bacteriological examination which on culture yielded a profuse growth of air-borne organisms and some of faecal origin. The reasonable presumption being that the fish cakes were old stock, had not been properly protected against air contamination and that persons who handled them had not washed their hands thoroughly after using the lavatory.

These matters must be borne in mind by all persons dealing with any kind of food.”

There are 108 premises registered under the Milk and Dairies Order on which milk is produced. Generally there is a very high standard of production. Twenty-two of the farms produce Tuberculin Tested Milk and twenty-eight Accredited Milk.

30 cwts. 2 qrs. 16 lbs. of food was condemned during the year 1947, nearly all of which was used for animal feeding.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

	M/c line No.	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of Written Notices	No. of Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	1	25	80	1	0
(ii) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	2	59	0	1	0
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	0	0	0	0
Total		84	80	2	0

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Number of cases in which defects were found.

	M/c line No.	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	No. of cases in which prosecu- tions were insti- tuted
Want of cleanliness	4	15	15	0	0	0
Overcrowding ...	5	0	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable tem- perature ...	6	0	0	0	0	0
Inadequate ventila- tion ...	7	0	0	0	0	0
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	8	0	0	0	0	0
Sanitary Conveni- ences-						
(a) insufficient ...	9	3	1	0	1	0
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	10	3	2	0	2	0
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	11	0	0	0	0	0
Other offences against the Act (not in- cluding offences relating to Outwork)	12	0	0	2	0	0
Total		21	18	2	3	0

3. OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111).

There were 9 outworkers registered under employment in the district (August 1947), all of whom were engaged in the making, etc., of wearing apparel. There were no cases of default in supplying lists to the Council, and no instances of work in unwholesome premises.

H. J. HEELEY, M.S.I.A.,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Section F

The following tables, and measures of control, are commented upon in pp. 1 and 2 of this Report.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

YEAR 1947

				Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Whooping Cough	...	...		24	0	0
Measles	...	...	...	95	0	0
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	13	7	0
Meningitis	...	...	...	1	1	0
Erysipelas	...	...	...	3	0	0
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	1	1	0
*Infantile Paralysis	...	...		2	2	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...		2	2	0
Infective Jaundice	...	...		2	0	0

* 1 unconfirmed.

Notification of Infectious Disease during the past 5 years.

			1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.
Scarlet Fever	...	...	56	19	23	27	13
Diphtheria	...	...	0	0	2	0	0
Typhoid and Paratyphoid			0	0	0	1	1
Erysipelas	...	...	5	3	0	1	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	...		1	2	0	0	2
Measles	...	...	298	115	274	103	95
Whooping Cough	...		5	101	23	62	24
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis			0	0	1	1	1
Dysentery	...	...	1	3	10	2	0
Infective Hepatitis	...		8	28	12	0	2

Comparative Tables of Infectious Disease Notification and
Death Rates per 1,000 of the population in 1947 :—
(Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

1. Notifications per 1,000 population.

		England and Wales	126 County Bor- oughs and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 census)	London Adm. County	Epping
Typhoid Fever	...	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.06
Paratyphoid Fever	...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Scarlet Fever	...	1.37	1.54	1.37	1.31	0.79
Cerebro-spinal Fever		0.05	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.06
Whooping Cough	...	2.22	2.41	2.02	2.80	1.44
Diphtheria	... ..	0.13	0.15	0.14	0.14	0.00
Erysipelas	... ..	0.19	0.21	0.18	0.22	1.80
Smallpox	... ..	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Measles	... ..	9.41	9.13	9.38	5.29	5.70
Pneumonia	... ..	0.79	0.89	0.68	0.64	1.20

1. Deaths per 1,000 population.

Typhoid and Paraty- phoid ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough ...	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.06
Diphtheria ...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Influenza ...	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.08	0.06
Smallpox ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles ...	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.00

Tuberculosis.

Seven new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 4 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year, and there were 6 deaths from this disease. Corresponding figures for the previous year (1946) were 17, 8 and 4 respectively.

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